

Clinton recognizes ADA's fourth year

When U.S. President Bill Clinton commemorated the fourth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) July 27, his speech was peppered with the applause of about 3,000 people—the largest crowd ever to grace the White House, according to the White House Office of Media Affairs—and most of them were people with disabilities.

Clinton said that the ADA “stands for what’s best in our heritage—empowering Americans to build better lives for themselves.” He pledged, “to see that this Act is fully implemented and aggressively enforced in our schools, our workplaces, in government and in public places for the benefit of all persons with disabilities. . . .”

Earlier that morning, Clinton used the Arkansas Relay Service to call Gallaudet Board of Trustees Chair Glenn Anderson to demonstrate ways that ADA has helped eliminate barriers for deaf and hard of hearing people.

“I was honored to be asked to join President Clinton on the platform to celebrate the fourth anniversary of ADA,” said Gallaudet President I. King Jordan, who joined other leaders in the disability community on stage. “Before the ceremony, I had the opportunity to talk to him about his phone conversation with Dr. Anderson, which he then mentioned in his remarks. I’m also delighted that President Clinton introduced the Gallaudet students who will serve in the new Americorps program. All of this shows how remarkably effective ADA already is.”

Those three students—Jennifer Nasukiewicz, Amy Hopkins, and Madeleine Frederickson—will work to help restore the Chesapeake Bay to its natural beauty beginning this September. They are among 20,000 young Americans who make up the first class of Americorps.

“It was a thrill to have an opportunity to talk directly with the President,”

said Anderson. “I cherished every moment of the call!”

Anderson said the President congratulated him on his appointment as chair of the Board of Trustees and said that he was “particularly pleased about the extensive support he had received from both the deaf community and from the disability community for health care reform.” Clinton told Anderson that he was very pleased with how well ADA is working and expressed his appreciation and admiration for everyone who had contributed to its success. He also extended his appreciation to Anderson’s wife, Karen, for her work and contributions during the Presidential Campaign and volunteered to autograph a photo of himself with Anderson’s son, Jamaal.

Also in the audience at the White House was Carolyn McCaskill-Emerson, coordinator of Minority Achievement and Multicultural Programs at Pre-College Programs’ Center for Curriculum Development, Research, and Evaluation. Her face will soon be in homes across the nation as part of a public service announcement about the ADA filmed with Attorney General Janet Reno and four other people with disabilities.

Also in attendance were Congressman Major R. Owens (D-N.Y.), who received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at Gallaudet last May and Justin Dart, former chair of the President’s Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities, another on whom Gallaudet has bestowed an honorary doctoral degree.

Vice President Al Gore, his wife Tipper Gore, and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke at the commemoration. Several members of the President’s administration, leaders from the disability community, and members of Congress also attended, including Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), a long-time advocate of Gallaudet and the ADA.



Students in the New Signers Program enjoy an opportunity to make friends at a welcoming reception held Aug. 4 in the HMB atrium.

Program helps put new signers at ease

Entering a new culture without knowing the language or customs can be a shock for anyone. Realizing this fact, Gallaudet University has a way to ease the transition for new preparatory, freshmen, and transfer students—the New Signers Program (NSP).

Thirty-five students who knew little or no sign language when they were accepted at Gallaudet are attending the program this year from Aug. 4-26. The students are training to learn enough sign in three weeks to be able to better cope during their first semester at Gallaudet, said Norma Buemi, coordinator of Orientation Programs in the Academic Advising Office. She added that NSP is “one of our best recruiting tools.”

In addition to sign language classes, the students are immersed in learning experiences—sign language classes, and learning about Gallaudet’s history and traditions, deaf awareness, and deaf culture. The students also take the Learning through Discovery program, an outdoor adventure-based

program which emphasizes self-confidence, team-building, and problem-solving skills.

On evenings and weekends, the students participate in activities designed to encourage them to interact and use their new signing skills. This year’s program featured a rich menu of such activities, including VAX bingo, a mini Olympics, a bowling tournament, visits to the Pentagon City mall and National Aquarium in Baltimore, and a day at the beach in Ocean City, Md.

Most NSP students come from mainstream backgrounds, and some are from outside the United States. To ease their transition, new signer student advisors live with NSP students in the dormitories, coordinate evening/weekend activities, and assist in sign language classes and the Learning through Discovery program.

Several people who are part of this year’s NSP staff are themselves “graduates” of previous NSP programs, according to Buemi.

Vendor chosen, Central Stores closes

Corporate Express of Columbia, Md., has been selected as the University’s new vendor to provide office supplies to the campus community, a move that has made Gallaudet’s Central Stores obsolete, according to Mike Lockhart, purchasing agent in the Office of Contracts and Purchasing.

Everything that was available from Central Stores in the past is now available from the new vendor, said Lockhart, with the exception of office furniture, TTYs, TTY paper, and moving boxes. Departments that want to order these items will need to submit a purchase order requisition form to Contracts and Purchasing.

Office supplies can be selected from Corporate Express’ catalog, then listed on its new requisition forms. The forms must be submitted to Contracts and Purchasing, which is located in College Hall, Room 320. The forms may also be faxed to the office at x5541. (If a form is faxed, do not mail the original or the order will be duplicated.) On the same day, the forms will be forwarded to the vendor, and supplies will be delivered directly to the client the following day.

Catalogs and order forms have been distributed to campus units. Additional copies can be obtained from Contracts and Purchasing.

For more information, call Lockhart at x5533 or E-mail MRLOCKHART.



Merrill Lynch senior financial consultant Stephen Hlibok presents a \$15,000 check for HMB renovations on behalf of the company to Vice President for Institutional Advancement Margaret Hall (left) and Director of Foundations and Corporate Relations Catherine Deboney.

Deaf-blind culture is lecture topic

Arthur Roehrig, coordinator of Gallaudet's Deaf-Blind program, gave his audience a taste of deaf-blind culture even before he began his presentation on the subject July 19.

"Can everyone see me?" he asked, reaching to his interpreter, Jennifer Israel, sitting beside him on the Ely Auditorium stage so he could feel the interpreted response from the audience. "Can everyone hear me? Hmm, not so well? Can everyone feel me?"

"That's incorporating deaf-blind culture," Roehrig said of his last question.

Roehrig told his audience that he started research into deaf-blind culture and research into other cultures against which to compare the deaf-blind community after people started asking him if a deaf-blind culture exists.

Little formal research has been done on the deaf-blind community because it is still an emerging culture, Roehrig said, so few specifics about the culture can be documented. Roehrig hopes, however, that researchers will start conducting in-depth studies of deaf-blind culture.

A culture is defined by its behavior, beliefs, and traditions, Roehrig said, adding that each culture has its own distinctive characteristics. Deaf culture in the United States, for instance, is based on American Sign Language (ASL) as its

primary mode of communication, while blind people place great value on being able to travel independently. This is why, said Roehrig, "I have almost never seen a blind person living in a rural area" where public transportation is often scarce.

Roehrig said he believes that deaf-blind culture only started to develop in the past one or two decades as deaf-blind people started to establish organizations for themselves such as the Metro Washington Association of the Deaf-Blind, and began meeting socially in groups on a regular basis. Deaf-blind people met more and more often as they came to realize how important it was to share experiences and advice, Roehrig said.

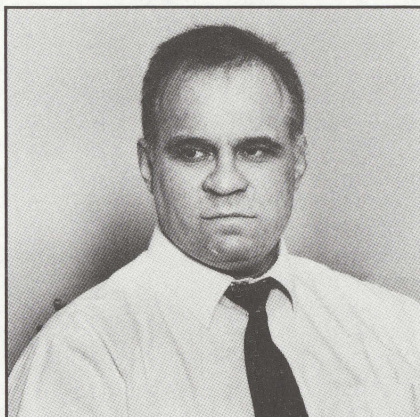
The deaf-blind community is much like the broader deaf community of the early 19th century, Roehrig said. At that time, deaf people as a society were fragmented until the American School for the Deaf was established in Hartford, Conn., which permitted them to pull together and begin using ASL.

Even though programs to educate deaf children have been in place for many years, deaf-blind children continue to be isolated in individualized programs for deaf students—or, worse, often at schools for blind students where they often receive little, if any, exposure to sign language.

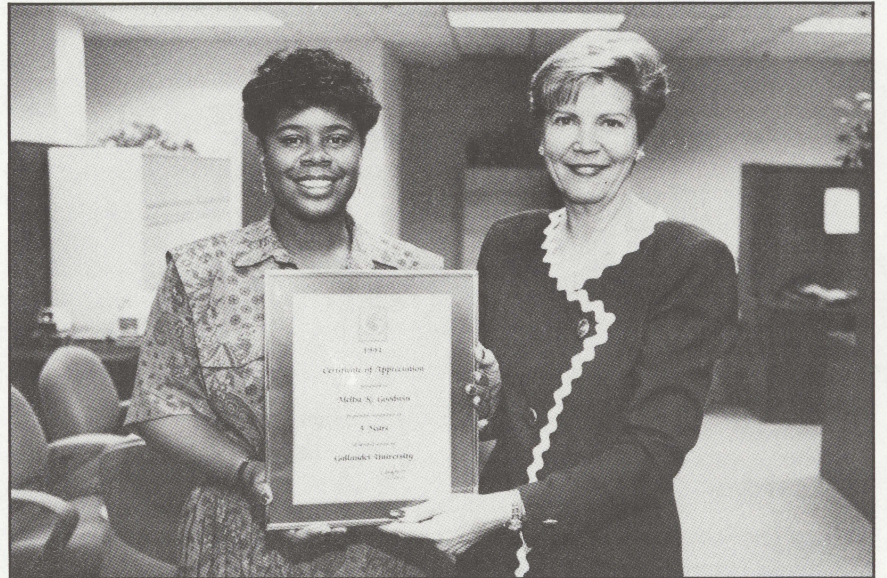
In recent years, more and more college educated deaf-blind people have been settling in the Washington, D.C., area, which has good support services, public transportation, and professional job opportunities, Roehrig said. Others are putting down roots in places like Seattle, Wash., which has many overcast days and, therefore, little of the sun glare that makes it difficult for visually impaired people to make use of their residual vision.

Historically, deaf-blind people attended deaf clubs or stayed at home rather than getting together, Roehrig said. Even within the deaf community, people who are deaf-blind are seen as having a medical condition rather than people who belong to a cultural community—the same perception that many hearing people have about deaf people. Even annual conventions of the American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB) used to hold workshops on such topics as curing deaf-blind people of their disabilities, he noted. In the past three or four years, however, AADB workshop topics have centered more on culture, pride, leadership, and assertiveness.

Roehrig acknowledged that even now, many deaf-blind people are struggling toward self-acceptance. Responding to a comment from an audience member that some students with Usher's Syndrome insist, "I'm not deaf-blind! I'm Usher's," Roehrig said, "Yes, many deny [that they are deaf-blind]—they're not yet ready to step out of one culture and enter another."



Art Roehrig



Registrar Carolyn Willis (right) congratulates Melba Goodwin, consortium coordinator in the Registrar's Office, for five years of service to the University.

Announcements

The Child Development Center (CDC) has a few child care vacancies for children ages 2-4 for the fall semester, which begins Aug. 29. The CDC is also selling children's T-shirts for \$8 and adult T-shirts for \$10, with all proceeds benefiting CDC. For more information, call Gail Solit, x5130 or E-mail GASOLIT.

Dr. Kathleen Peoples has been named executive director of Student Development in the Division of Academic Support and Student Development, effective Aug. 15, according to Dr. Howard Busby, vice president for the division. Peoples has been director of the University Counseling Center for the past six years. She has also served on numerous task forces and committees and has instructed in

the departments of Psychology and Counseling.

Gallaudet's Clinical Psychology Program has been approved for listing in the 1994 edition of the *Designated Listing of Programs in Psychology*, published jointly by the National Register of Health Service Providers and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. This listing is used by most states to determine whether an applicant for licensure has a degree from an acceptable and legitimate psychology doctoral program.

Funeral services were held Aug. 10 in Chapel Hall for Vivienne Simmons, a Gallaudet sophomore who died Aug. 4. Condolences may be sent to 650 9th St. NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Classified Ads

Classified ads are printed for Gallaudet faculty and staff. Written ads must be submitted in person or by mail to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TTY. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per printing must accompany each ad. The deadline for submitting ads is Friday, 10 days before the desired publication. Ads received Aug. 15-19 will be printed Aug. 29.

FOR RENT: 1 BR in 2-BR apt. in Cheverly, Md., Sept.-May, \$230/mo. incl. util. Call Lydie, x5447 or E-mail 12MAKINOSI.

FOR RENT: 1 BR w/priv. bath in 2-BR apt. in Greenbelt/Seabrook, Md., to nonsmoker, pool and spa privileges, \$350/mo. incl. elec. Call (301) 595-8843 (V/TTY) after 6:30 p.m., or Jay at (301) 794-7067 (V/TTY) 9 a.m.-noon.

FOR RENT: 2-BR apt. less than 1-block from Kendall Green. Call (301) 773-1710 (V/TTY) or (301) 322-7372 (V).

WANTED: 2- or 3-BR townhouse or apt., walking distance to Metro, to buy or rent by new Gallaudet faculty member. Call Tim Hanson, x5306.

FOR SALE: '72 24-ft. Seafarer sailboat, original owner, outboard motor, retractable keel, sleeps 4-5, \$6,500. Call (703) 549-1239 (V) or E-mail KSAULNIER.

FOR RENT: 1-BR w/priv. BA in Silver Spring, Md., condo. W/D, pool, spa, no pets, must have a car, near Metro, one grad student or professional female preferred, avail. Sept., \$350/mo. plus ½ elect. Call (301) 890-2435 (TTY).

FOR RENT: Apt. in walking distance to Kendall Green, 633 Orleans Place, upstairs unit, separate entrance, secure, new paint and carpeting, owner willing to accommodate deaf tenant. Call Ms. Gaither, (301) 774-9719 (V) and leave detailed message.

WANTED: Fingertalk tutor to practice receptive skills, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Tues, Thurs, on campus, fee negotiable. Call E. Walsh (703) 257-1662 (V).

WANTED: 3-BR apt. in NW DC, Takoma Park, Md., or Silver Spring, Md., near bus/Metro, need immediately. Call Linda Lee, (202) 232-4431 (V).

WANTED: Female to share 2-BR apt. in D.C. or Md. Call (202) 307-3196 (TTY) days or (202) 388-5165 (TTY) after 6 p.m.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 (V) or x5359 (TTY).

INTERPRETERS I, II, AND III: Gallaudet Interpreting Service

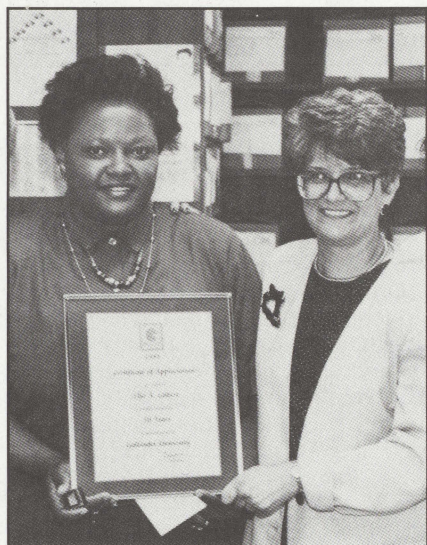
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: Counseling and Development

REGISTERED NURSE: Student Health Service

ASSISTANTS: MSSD Residence Education, two positions each for male and female dorms

NIGHT STUDENT AIDE: MSSD Residence Education, female dorm

August 15, 1994



National Information Center on Deafness Director Loraine DiPietro (right) recognizes Anita Gilbert, information specialist, for 10 years of service.



Published each Monday for the staff and faculty of Gallaudet University by the Department of Publications and Production.

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